

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-4 are allowable over the prior art of record because none of the references teach or suggest a shutter which is capable of peeling the hot-stamping foil tape disposed in the cassette tape from the value-added medium after hot-stamping. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Although Applicant has made minor changes to claims 1, 2 and 4, they were made to clarify the claim language and to correct translation errors only. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-4 are still patentable over the cited references. Claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Thus, by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1, claim 5 is also patentable.

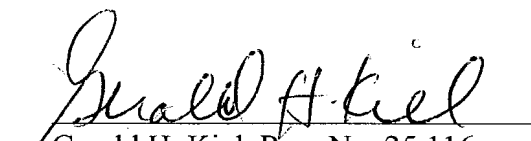
The Examiner objected to claim 6 and suggested that the third and fourth steps be placed between the first and second steps. Applicant has cancelled claims 6-11 in favor of a divisional application to be filed shortly. Accordingly, the Examiner's objection is believed to be moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 6 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being obvious over Danjo (US Patent No. 5719616) in view of Sampson (US Patent No. 4930911). The Examiner further rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being obvious over in view of Sampson and further in view of Burnard (US Patent No. 5087137). As discussed above, Applicant has amended claim 5 to depend from allowable claim 1 and cancelled claims 6-11 in favor of a divisional application to be filed shortly. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection is believed to be moot.

Applicant has added new claims 12-15 which are drawn along the lines of allowable claims 1-4. Specifically, claim 12 recites "wherein, after hot-stamping, the shutter is operable to peel the pressure transferred hot-stamping foil from the carrier film." None of the cited references, either alone or in combination, recites such a novel feature.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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